

CLAIMS:

1. A method for mixed human and computer-supported distributed scheduling of a task according to scheduling decisions within a plurality of workplaces, said workplaces being connected to each other and to a shared negotiation facility via a computer network, the method comprising:
 - a) expressing a first scheduling decision by manual modification in a scheduling board within a first of said workplaces,
 - b) recording said first scheduling decision and creating first scheduling decision data which represent the first scheduling decision in a computer-readable form,
 - c) transferring the first scheduling decision data via the computer network to the shared negotiation facility,
 - d) negotiating said task within the negotiation facility by combining the first scheduling decision data with second scheduling decision data received from at least a second of said workplaces and creating negotiation result data which represent results of negotiating said task, and
 - e) transferring said negotiation result data to at least said first workplace.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein expressing said scheduling decision comprises drawing a schedule and a control mark representing the scheduling decision on a manual board and wherein said scheduling decision data are created as a digitized photograph of the manual board.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the results of the negotiation step are visualized by a projector that projects different colored lights onto the schedule drawn on the manual board.
4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the scheduling board is a large screen display.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the results of the negotiation are visualized by the large screen display.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said workplace is a printshop.
- 5 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said task is a print job.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first scheduling decision comprises a request for one of insource work and outsource work.
9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
 - 10 expressing a second scheduling decision by manual modification in the scheduling board within the first of said workplaces,
 - recording the second scheduling decision and creating second scheduling decision data which represent the second scheduling decision in a computer-readable form, and
 - 15 identifying no control mark in the second scheduling decision; said identifying inhibiting transfer the second scheduling decision data via the computer network to the shared negotiation facility.
10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first scheduling decision data is transferred via the computer network to the shared negotiation facility only if it contains a control mark.
- 20 11. An apparatus for mixed human and computer supported distributed scheduling of tasks within a plurality of workplaces, comprising:
 - a) a scheduling board located in a first of said workplaces for receiving a manual scheduling decision,
 - 25 b) a recording device for recording said scheduling decision and creating scheduling decision data which represent the scheduling decision in a computer-readable form,
 - c) a shared negotiation facility for negotiating a scheduling task according to the scheduling decision among the rest
 - 30 of said plurality of workplaces,

- d) a computer network connecting said workplaces to each other and to the shared negotiation facility for transferring said scheduling decision data to said shared negotiation facility.

5